FIGS. 12-14 are detail perspective views of the applier of FIG. 1 in an unactuated, partially actuated, and actuated state shown with retention features.

Amending paragraph 29 as indicated presents the introduction of no new matter to the application as originally filed. Support for this amendment is found in the originally filed specification in FIGS. 12-14 and the originally filed paragraph 43.

Please replace paragraph 43 with the following:

In use, the tapered tip 24 of the applier 10 is inserted through a trocar port into a tissue passage that has been placed proximate to another tissue passage that are to be anastomotically joined (See FIGS. 1-2). The tapered tip 24 and a distal half of the molded actuating member 20 and anastomotic ring device 12 are inserted through an anastomotic opening 28 formed therebetween and then the applier is actuated, with a partially actuated applier 10 being depicted in FIGS. 7-8. Positioning of the distal and proximal lumens is facilitated by separately actuating half of the actuating member 20 and by inflating the lumens by passing pressurized air through the instrument 10. With particular reference to FIG. 8, the proximal and distal leaves 40, 50 are shown as having gripping slots 118 that grip respective petals 120 of the anastomotic ring device 12, especially in its unactuated, generally cylindrical shape. In FIGS. 12-14, an inwardly directed retention tip 121 or other gripping features in the gripping slots 118 may be incorporated to enhance retention. These gripping slots 118 assist in preventing the anastomotic ring device 12 from slipping off of the applier 10 or being inappropriately placed thereon for actuation. In FIGS. 9-10, the applier 10 has been fully actuated, forming the anastomotic ring device 12 into a hollow rivet shape to form the anastomotic attachment between tissue walls 30, 32. The fully actuated proximal and distal leaves 40, 50 cause the petals 120 to disengage from the gripping slots 118. Thereafter, the applier 10 is returned to an unactuated condition and the actuated anastomotic ring device 12 deployed by withdrawing the tapered tip 24 from the anastomotic opening 28 and ring device 12, as depicted in FIG. 11.

Amending paragraph 43 as indicated presents the introduction of no new matter to the application as originally filed. Support for this amendment is found in the originally filed specification in FIGS. 12-14 and the originally filed paragraph 43 and merely adds the phrase "In FIGS. 12-14," pointing out where the component "retention tip 121" being described is shown.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Box Non-Fee Amendment, The Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C., 20231, this 2nd day of February, 2004.

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